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PRIORITY SUBJECT: WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole for the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered its priority subject, the World Summit for Social Development, particularly the arrangements for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 1/

Recognizing that the full implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration and of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action will contribute to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all,

Decides to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the views and considerations annexed hereto.

1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Annex

VIEWS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The implementation of the commitments and policy recommendations of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development involves Governments, the international community and all actors of civil society. Regional and international organizations have a responsibility to contribute to the implementation and follow-up in order to provide support to Governments, at both the national and international levels.

2. The General Assembly is the principal policy-making organ entrusted with providing the general orientation and decisions for action in the implementation and follow-up of the agreements of the World Summit for Social Development. The Economic and Social Council is entrusted with providing overall system-wide coordination of the implementation of those agreements and should make recommendations in that regard in view of the need for improved efficiency and effectiveness within the United Nations system in addressing social development issues. In that context, the Commission for Social Development, as a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council, should have a central role in the follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. This role should be compatible with the functions and contributions of other relevant bodies, organs and organizations of the United Nations system.

3. In order to be able to carry out its responsibilities regarding the implementation and follow-up of the agreements of the Summit, the Commission for Social Development should be in a position to increase the added value of its contributions to international cooperation for social development. To this end:

(a) The Economic and Social Council should review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of an expansion of its membership and the annualization of its meetings, as well as of its reporting system and the effectiveness of its methods of work, with a view to enhancing its contribution to the follow-up of the Summit;

(b) The mandate of the Commission should be adapted in order to ensure an integrated approach to social development, taking into account the relationship between social and economic development as defined by the recommendations adopted by the World Summit for Social Development;

(c) The Commission should establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society in the field of social development. The Commission should also review and update its methods of work in order to fulfil its mandate efficiently;

(d) The Commission should contribute to the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(e) The Commission, on the basis of the review of its agenda, should develop a work programme for considering the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.